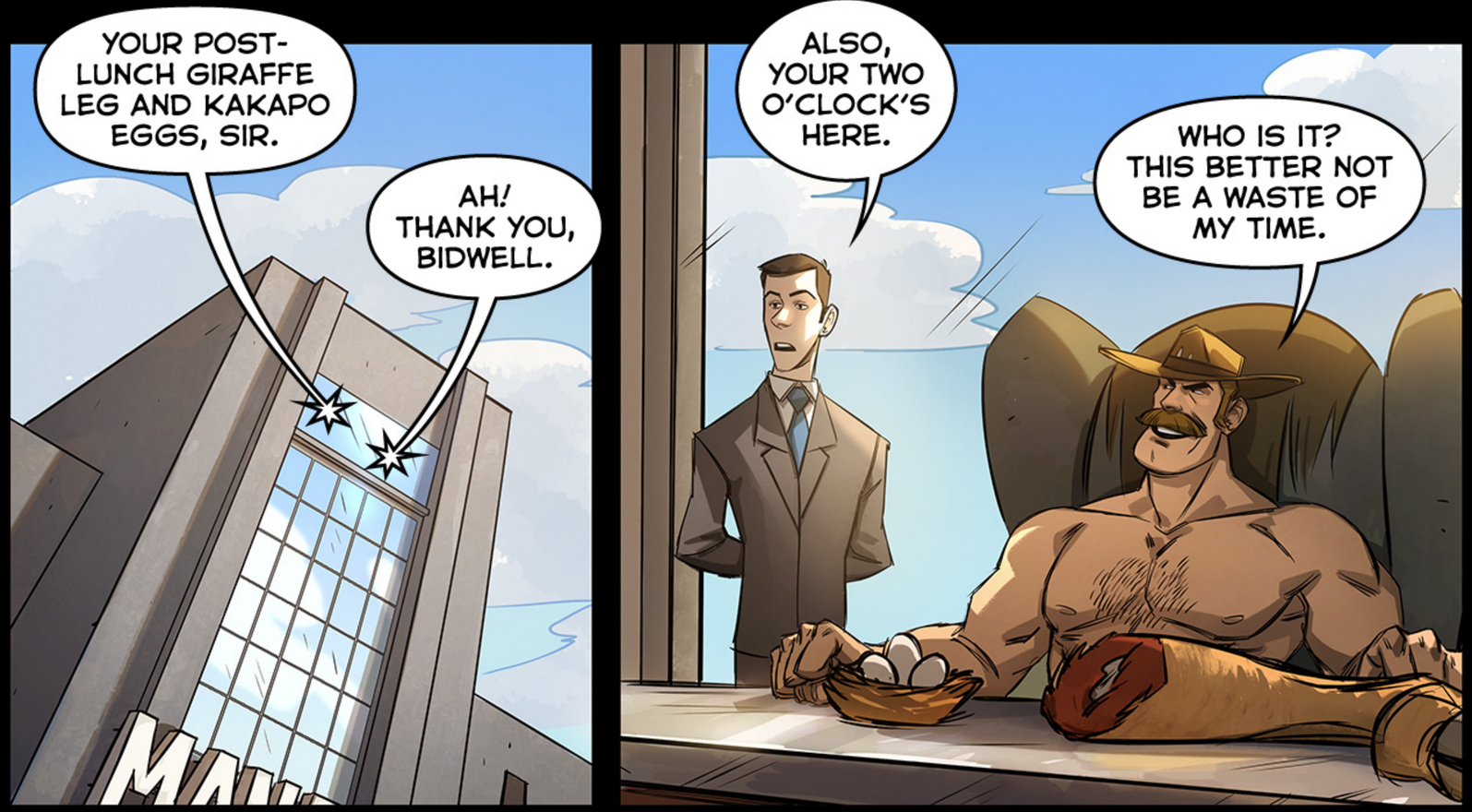
Elite Customers

MS PAULING


YOUR POST-LUNCH GIRAFFE LEG AND KAKAPO EGGS, SIR.
AH! THANK YOU, BIDWELL.
ALSO, YOUR TWO O'CLOCK'S HERE.
WHO IS IT? THIS BETTER NOT BE A WASTE OF MY TIME.

YOUR POST-LUNCH GIRAFFE LEG AND KAKAPO EGGS, SIR.
AH! THANK YOU, BIDWELL.
MAIL
ALSO, YOUR TWO O'CLOCK'S HERE.
WHO IS IT? THIS BETTER NOT BE A WASTE OF MY TIME.
UM.
HI.
OH. IT IS.
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, HELEN'S BIDWELL?
RIGHT, UM. WE'VE ACTUALLY MET. EVERY WEEK FOR... FOR THE LAST YEAR.
MY NAME'S MISS PAULING? I—NEVERMIND.
MISS PAULING. RIGHT. GOT IT.
WELL, MYSTERY SOLVED! BIDWELL! *MY* BIDWELL. SEE MISS PADDLING OUT.

YOUR POST-LUNCH GIRAFFE LEG AND KAKAPO EGGS, SIR.

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*WHOA WHOA HEY HEY HEY!* BIDWELL! STOP ***PUSHING!***

LISTEN, I'VE GOT A ***BIG PROBLEM*** HERE!

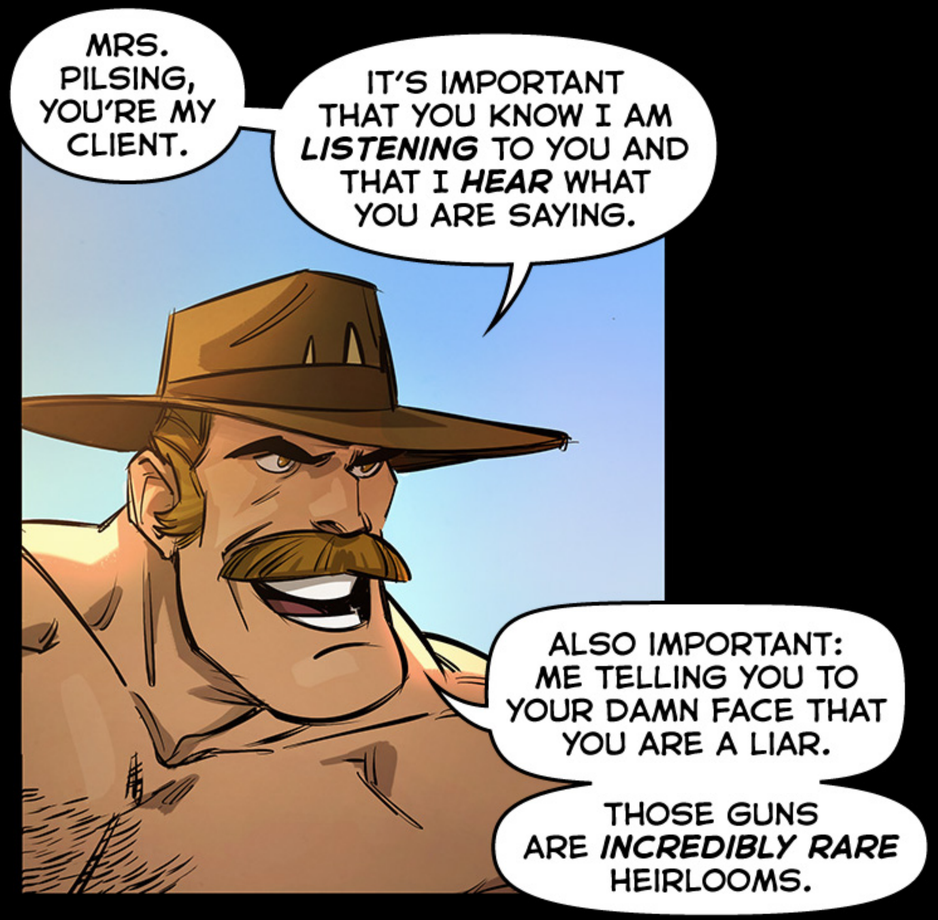
CAL BILLIONAIRE KILLS RIVAL WITH BARE HANDS

I AM ***DROWNING*** IN FLARE GUNS.

I ***DROVE OVER*** A PILE OF FORCE-A-NATURES ON THE HIGHWAY GETTING TO THIS MEETING.

I CAN'T GET THE GUYS TO DO JOBS IF THEY'VE ALREADY GOT SIXTEEN OF EVERYTHING I'M OFFERING THEM.

I NEED ***INCENTIVES***, MR. HALE.


MRS. PILSING, YOU'RE MY CLIENT.
IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU KNOW I AM *LISTENING* TO YOU AND THAT I *HEAR* WHAT YOU ARE SAYING.
ALSO IMPORTANT: ME TELLING YOU TO YOUR DAMN FACE THAT YOU ARE A LIAR.
THOSE GUNS ARE *INCREDIBLY RARE* HEIRLOOMS.

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THOSE GUNS ARE ***INCREDIBLY RARE*** HEIRLOOMS.

MR. HALE, THIS CHAIR I'M SITTING ON IS ***MADE*** OF FORCE-A-NATURES!

AH, RIGHT. NO, THOSE ***ARE*** GARBAGE.

FACTORY ERROR. ACCIDENTALLY MADE NINE MILLION OF THE THINGS.

***AND*** I'VE BEEN OVER-CHARGING YOU FOR THEM FOR ***YEARS***.

BUT HERE'S THE GOOD NEWS: AS OF ***RIGHT NOW***, I AM GOING TO ***STOP***.

PROBLEM SOLVED. BIDWELL, SHOW MISS POZN—

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***NO!***

MR. HALE, I— CAN I CALL YOU SAXTON?

NORMALLY YES. BUT SINCE WE'RE NEGOTIATING, NO.

:SIGH:

MR. HALE. DO YOU SEE THIS ***PHONE BOOK*** I'M HOLDING?

IT'S A ***LIST***. OF EVERYONE THE ADMINISTRATOR WANTS KILLED.

***THIS*** WEEK.

IT'S ***MY*** JOB TO GET THE RIGHT PEOPLE IN THE RIGHT SHALLOW GRAVES.

OR ***I'LL*** END UP IN ONE. AND SAXTON?

YOU'LL BE ***RIGHT THERE WITH ME.***

I LIKE YOUR MOXIE, PIDDLING!

YOU REMIND ME OF *ME*, IF I WAS MY OWN ASSISTANT!

HEH HEH. YEAH. SO... YOU'LL GIVE ME BETTER GUNS?

*HA HA HA HA!*

NO.

BUT— BUT WHY?

I'LL SHOW YOU.

RESTRICTED AREA. PLEASE AUTHENTICATE.

I LIKE YOUR MOXIE, PIDDLING!

YOU REMIND ME OF *ME*, IF I WAS MY OWN ASSISTANT!

HEH HEH. YEAH. SO... YOU'LL GIVE ME BETTER GUNS?

*HA HA HA HA!*

NO.

BUT— BUT WHY?

I'LL SHOW YOU.

RESTRICTED AREA. PLEASE AUTHENTICATE.

KRAKOOM

2,751 POUNDS PRESSURE PER SQUARE INCH.

G'DAY, MR. HALE.

SHUFFFFF

FOLLOW ME.

THIS... IS THE MANN CO. ELITE SUITE. PREMIUM WEAPONS FOR THE TOP MERCENARIES IN THE WORLD.

SECRET AGENTS. COMMANDOS. ASSASSINS. THE ELITE SUITE CATERS TO THE DISCERNING KILLER IN IMMEDIATE NEED OF HIGH-END ORDINANCE AT ANY PRICE.

AND BY ANY PRICE, I MEAN "AN OBSCENE PRICE." THEY'RE ALL HIGH-FUNCTIONING PSYCHOTICS, NOT A ONE OF THEM SEEMS TO KNOW OR CARE WHAT MONEY IS.

"ENJOY THE COMPLIMENTARY CHAMPAGNE, BY THE WAY."

THAT'S WHAT I'D SAY IF YOU WERE AN ACTUAL CUSTOMER, BECAUSE YOU'D BE A TRILLIONAIRE.

YOU'RE NOT, THOUGH, SO PUT IT BACK. IT'S $5000 A GLASS.

HERE'S ONE OF OUR NEWEST CASES. AIN'T SHE A BEAUT?

YES.

SHE'S BEAUTIFUL.

DAMN RIGHT. ***RARE***, TOO. WE BROKE THE MOLD AFTER WE MADE THAT ONE.

ACCIDENTALLY. FACTORY EXPLOSION. TRAGIC. STILL, IT'S A GOOD IDEA. WE'RE GONNA DO MORE OF THAT IN THE FUTURE.

BUT THIS IS ***EXACTLY*** WHAT I NEED!

MISS PUFFINS, I'LL BE SQUARE WITH YOU.

YOU WORK WITH ***EXCEPTIONALLY*** SUBNORMAL MEN.

DEFECTIVES. DRUNKS. SEX CRIMINALS. WAR CRIMINALS.

I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN FOUR OF THEM CAN'T EVEN READ.

MEN LIKE THAT DON'T ***GET*** HIGH-END JOBS. THEY GET ***YOUR*** JOBS.

AND SOMETHING TELLS ME YOU DIDN'T COME HERE WITH A ***BLANK CHECK.***

OKAY, ***FINE.*** MAYBE I CAN'T AFFORD ***THESE*** GUNS, BUT...

YOU MUST HAVE ***SOMETHING*** IN MY PRICE RANGE!

ALRIGHT, YOU TWISTED MY ARM.

METAPHORICALLY, I MEAN. LOOK AT THOSE TINY HANDS. I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU BUDGE THESE TREE TRUNKS.

ANYWAY, I WASN'T GONNA SHOW YOU THIS, BUT...

I'VE GOT ***JUST THE THING.***

OH, THAN—

DAMN RIGHT. ***RARE***, TOO. WE BROKE THE MOLD AFTER WE MADE THAT ONE.

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ENJOY THIS COMPLIMENTARY COLA!

MEN LIKE THAT DON'T ***GET*** HIGH-END JOBS. THEY GET ***YOUR*** JOBS.

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OH.

AN EMPLOYEE OPENED IT AND DIDN'T DRINK ALL OF IT.

I GIVE YOU...

THE TWIN FORCES OF NATURE!

IT'S TWO GUNS IN ONE!

AND A CLUB!

AND HELL! RAW MATERIALS YOU CAN MELT DOWN INTO A BETTER GUN!

AND... YOU COULD WALK OUT OF HERE WITH IT, TODAY, FOR FORTY DOLLARS.

RIGHT.

FORTY DOLLARS AND FIVE CENTS IF YOU'RE PLANNING TO TAKE THAT COLA CAN WITH YOU.

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THAT NIGHT...

RRRGH!

kick

37 POUNDS PRESSURE PER SQUARE INCH.

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37 POUNDS PRESSURE PER SQUARE INCH.

HFF

HFF

YOU ARE NOT SAXTON HALE. POLICE HAVE...

RRRRRRARGH!

KRAKOOOM

2633 POUNDS PRESSURE PER SQUARE INCH.

I GIVE YOU...

***THE TWIN FORCES OF NATURE!***

IT'S TWO GUNS IN ONE!

AND A CLUB!

AND HELL! RAW MATERIALS YOU CAN MELT DOWN INTO A ***BETTER*** GUN!

***AND...*** YOU COULD WALK OUT OF HERE WITH IT, ***TODAY***, FOR FORTY DOLLARS.

RIGHT.

FORTY DOLLARS AND FIVE CENTS IF YOU'RE PLANNING TO TAKE THAT COLA CAN WITH YOU.

THAT NIGHT...

RRRGH!

KICK

37 POUNDS PRESSURE PER SQUARE INCH.

HFF

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YOU ARE NOT SAXTON HALE. POLICE HAVE...

RRRRRRARGH!

KRAKOOOM

2633 POUNDS PRESSURE PER SQUARE INCH.

OH, WHAT NOW...

RING RING

PAULING H—

I WAS THINKING. THE TWIN FORCES OF NATURE? YOU CAUGHT ME IN A GOOD MOOD. $35.

THAT'S HIGHWAY ROBBERY. YOU'VE JUST MADE ME AN ACCESSORY TO A CRIME AGAINST MYSELF.

I'M GOING TO TAKE IT FROM YOUR SILENCE THAT YOU ARE ***CAUTIOUSLY INTERESTED***. SO LET ME SWEETEN THE POT.

I AM HOLDING, ***RIGHT NOW***, A SOLVENT THAT WILL ***SEPARATE*** THE TWIN FORCES OF NATURE INTO ***TWO*** GUNS.

THAT'S RIGHT. I JUST ***DOUBLED*** THIS DEAL.

IOU a hundred Million dollars. Thanks. -P.

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YOUR CONTINUED SILENCE TELLS ME YOU'RE SHREWD.

MAYBE ***TOO*** SHREWD. NOW THE PRICE IS ***BACK*** TO FORTY DOLLARS. CARPE DIEM, PAULING. TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT.

>HH<

>HH<

YEAH, FINE.

GOOD. LOCKED IN.

NOW FOR THE LESSON-LEARNING PART. YOU JUST GOT ***ROBBED***, PAULING. THIS IS A HORRIBLE DEAL, THESE THINGS ARE TERRIBLE.

***THAT'S*** WHY YOU NEVER GET THE ***GOOD*** GUNS.

NEXT TIME SHOW SOME INITIATIVE.

TO BE CONTINUED IN...

THE GUN METTLE UPDATE